

REMARKS

In this response, claims 37, 39, 43-44, 46, 50 and 54 are amended. Claims 47, 49 and 55-62 are cancelled. New claims 63-66 are added. Support for the amendments to the existing claims, as well as the newly added claims, may be found, for example, on pages 11-12 of the present application.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request further examination of the present application and reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated July 26, 2005.

Claims 37-40, 42 and 49-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by van der Hoeven (U.S. Patent No. 4,789,604). In addition, claims 37-54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over van der Hoeven in view of Helmer et al. (WO 96/22338).

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in light of the claims as currently amended. Applicants respectfully submit that neither van der Hoeven nor Helmer, whether considered alone or in combination, teach or suggest the subject matter of the claims as amended.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the cited rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

October 26, 2005

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